

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A gland for use in a hemostasis valve assembly comprising:  
a self-sealing, one piece gland having an inwardly facing surface, an outwardly facing surface located proximally from said inwardly facing surface, a first slit formed in said inwardly facing surface extending in a longitudinal direction toward but terminating before said outwardly facing surface, a second slit formed in said outwardly facing surface extending in said longitudinal direction toward but terminating before said inwardly facing surface in a plane offset from said first slit, and a third slit formed in a plane substantially parallel to at least one of said inwardly facing and outwardly facing surfaces extending laterally to connect said first slit with said second slit.
2. (Original) The gland of claim 1, wherein said third slit extends from a circumferential edge of said gland to a position beyond both of said first and said second slits.
3. (Original) The gland of claim 1, wherein said first slit is substantially parallel to said second slit.
4. (Original) The gland of claim 1, wherein said third slit is substantially perpendicular to at least one of said first and said second slits.
5. (Original) The gland of claim 1, wherein said third slit is substantially perpendicular to both of said first and said second slits.
6. (Original) The gland of claim 1, wherein said third slit extends from said first slit to said second slit without extending to a circumferential edge of said gland.
7. (Original) The gland of claim 1, wherein said third slit extends from a position between a circumferential edge of said gland and said first slit to a position between an opposite circumferential edge of said gland and said second slit without extending to either of said circumferential edge and said opposite circumferential edge.
8. (Original) The glad of claim 1, wherein each of said first, second and third slits is defined by a first surface of material in abutting contact with a second surface of material.
- 9-12. (Cancelled)